

# Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Data Solicitation Submission Guidelines



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

## Purpose

This document describes the data submission guidelines for organizations interested in submitting data to DEQ during the Temperature TMDL replacement project, data solicitation. More information about this project is online at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/tmdls/Pages/tmdlreplacement.aspx>

DEQ has begun a project to update and replace multiple temperature TMDLs that were issued by DEQ and approved by EPA between 2004 and 2010. DEQ is under a court order to replace these temperature TMDLs to make them consistent with the current temperature standards. These TMDLs must be updated because they were based, in part on the Natural Conditions Criterion, a section of the temperature standard that was subject to litigation and has since been disapproved by EPA.

To support the development of these temperature TMDLs, DEQ will be conducting an open data solicitation July 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020. During the solicitation period, the public may submit continuous temperature data to DEQ in the watersheds subject to the temperature TMDL replacements. DEQ is also seeking effluent temperature and daily average effluent flow data from NPDES permit holders.

The primary use of the data is to characterize stream temperatures in watersheds where DEQ must revise the temperature TMDLs. Specifically, the data may be used to characterize temperature patterns and variation over both spatial and temporal scales; determine where exceedances to the temperature water quality standards occur; and determine the magnitude and duration of those exceedances. Depending on the location and time period the data were collected, the data may be used to support the temperature modeling analysis. The modeling analysis helps DEQ understand the sources of temperature warming and what actions will reduce that warming. DEQ is highlighting the years and waterbodies where temperature data will be extremely useful. In most cases, DEQ will make stream temperature data submitted publically available in our Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) database.

*Note: Organizations that are on-going participants in DEQ's Volunteer Monitoring Program can continue to use data reporting procedures established for that program. Data already submitted under that program or during DEQ's 2018 Integrated Report call for data, do not need to resubmit their data for this solicitation.*

## Data quality requirements

Organizations submitting data to DEQ must confirm that the following requirements have been met:

- **Must have a project plan** - A document that includes a purpose statement, the number of samples collected, and quality assurance and quality control protocols for collecting and analyzing samples. DEQ may request organizations submit a project plan along with the data.

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*DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.*

- **Use widely approved methods** - Sampling and laboratory analysis must follow widely accepted scientific methods and protocols. These may include ODEQ-MOMs, USEPA, USGS and Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. All acceptable methods include applicable precision and accuracy checks and are listed in the respective data submission templates.

### Data submission requirements

To be considered for the temperature TMDL replacement project, data must meet all of the following requirements:

- **Parameters** - DEQ is only accepting continuous water temperature data. Continuous data are data collected at regular intervals with the same set of monitoring equipment. A typical example is temperature data collected every 30 minutes over the summer. DEQ is not accepting temperature grab samples. From NPDES permit holders, DEQ is also accepting continuous effluent flow and continuous effluent temperature (or effluent grab samples if continuous data are not available).
- **Study area** - Data and information submitted to DEQ must be collected from waters within the TMDL project area watersheds. See DEQ's project website for more information on the TMDL study areas.

**Data submission template** – Continuous temperature data must be submitted to DEQ using DEQ's continuous data template which can be downloaded from the project website. The template provides a way for DEQ to efficiently review and make the data publicly available in our AWQMS database. The template includes fields with information about the monitoring locations, pre- and post-deployment accuracy checks, field audits, and other information related to the monitoring. Some of this information is required and must be included with any data submission.

NPDES permit holders should also use the continuous data template to report continuous effluent temperature and flow data. NPDES permit holders that do not collect continuous data can report effluent grab samples and/or daily average effluent flow using the NPDES grab sample template. The following applies:

- If collecting continuous temperature and flow, use continuous template.
  - If collecting continuous temperature and grab flow, use continuous template for temperature, and grab template for flow.
  - If collecting grab temperature, use grab template for both temperature and flow. If flow is continuous, summarize as a daily average and report in grab template.
- **Collected within the data window** – DEQ is accepting any continuous stream temperature data collected after 1998 that is not already in a publicly accessible database such as DEQ's AWQMS database, EPA's WQX/STORET, or USGS's NWIS databases. To assist groups submitting data to DEQ we have summarized what is already available in public database and identified priority time periods and locations where we are seeking data. This information can be found on DEQ's temperature TMDL replacement project website. From NPDES permit holders we are seeking effluent data collected from 2014-2020.

### How To submit data to DEQ

Before sending data to DEQ, review the submission checklist to ensure you are ready. If you have checked all of these boxes you are ready to submit your data. To submit the template send an email to [tempTMDLdata@deq.state.or.us](mailto:tempTMDLdata@deq.state.or.us) notifying DEQ you are ready to submit. Do not attach the template to

this notification email. The template file size is too large for DEQ's email system. DEQ will respond to you with instructions on how to submit the template.

### Submission checklist

- I have not already submitted my continuous temperature data as part of the volunteer monitoring program or during DEQ's Integrated Report call for data.
- I have prepared and followed a project plan, quality assurance project plan, sampling and analysis plan or other similar document, to ensure that data collection, analysis methods and quality control steps are built into the project from the beginning.
- All sample collection and analysis follows widely approved methods. These may include ODEQ-MOMs, USEPA, USGS and Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. Methods used must be specified in the data submission template.
- I am willing to sign a verification form declaring that all methods and quality control protocols were followed.
- I understand and accept that my data will become publicly available to anyone.
- My data were collected in the temperature TMDL project watersheds.
- My continuous stream temperature data were collected between 1998 and 2020; or I am an NPDES permit holder and submitting effluent data collected between 2014 and 2020.
- My data characterize a specific location and I can provide the following information:
  - Location of each monitoring station in latitude and longitude, the reference datum (example – NAD83).
  - Waterbody name and description of the monitoring location.
  - Deployment information including equipment identification used to take samples
  - Date and time the samples were taken.
  - Measured result.
  - Unit of measurement.
  - Pre and Post deployment accuracy checks.
  - Audit values.
  - Method used for measurement.
  - Name and contact information of the organization submitting the data.
- My data has been entered into the data templates provided by DEQ on the temperature TMDL replacement project website.

Please email [tempTMDLdata@deq.state.or.us](mailto:tempTMDLdata@deq.state.or.us) if you have any questions or need assistance. If you are not able to confirm all of the checklist statements or provide all of the required information you may still submit the data. During our review of the data if we think there might be an issue with the results and can't verify instrument accuracy, sample precision, or other necessary information the results may receive a rejected status and DEQ may not use your data. DEQ may request additional documentation, such as project plans, instrument calibration records, and lab reports to try to avoid this situation.

### Data validation

Data submitted to DEQ will be screened for completeness, data quality, and if the results are within the typical range expected for that season and time of day. A typical range is considered the temperature values between the 10th and 90th percentile for that season and time of day. If the data are incomplete or

outside this range, DEQ will manually inspect the results, review quality control data, and/or follow up with the submitter for supporting documentation. The intent of the validation is not to eliminate data that may be showing a shift outside of the typical range, but rather to ensure that there is not an error in transcription or reporting units.

**Alternative formats**

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).